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Managing Hazardous Waste

*Preventing environmental
damage from hazardous
wastes, and restoring
contaminated sites for all
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State of
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Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

Managing Hazardous Waste

FACT SHEET, June 2005

Facility Closure

Former American Recovery Inc.

Alhambra, CA

This Fact Sheet describes the environmental investigation that has been completed, the draft Closure Plan and the proposed Corrective Action Termination with institutional controls at American Recovery, Inc. ARI was in the business of storage, treatment, and transfer of hazardous waste (e.g., solvents and solvent-contaminated wastes). ARI no longer operates any of the hazardous waste management units that it operated in connection with its former business operations at 3033 W. Mission Road, in Alhambra.

In this fact sheet you will find:

- Facility background
- Why the corrective action and closure of this facility pose no risk to the public
- How DTSC plans to close the facility
- Project contacts

Public Comment Period

June 29, 2005 – July 29, 2005

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) encourages the public to review and comment on the Draft Closure Plan and proposed Corrective Action Termination with institutional controls at the Former American Recovery Inc. Facility (ARI), located at 3033 N. Mission Road in Alhambra, CA

Please mail or email comments to the following address no later than July 29, 2005:

Mike Eshaghian
1011 N. Grandview Avenue
Glendale, California 91201
(818) 551-2926
Email: mesagh@dtsc.ca.gov



The draft Closure Plan and the proposed Corrective Action Termination with Institutional Controls define the steps that must be completed to close the American Recovery, Inc. Hazardous Waste Facility under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). You are invited to review and comment on the documents that describe the conditions and the actions that will be taken at the facility and recommends a land use covenant on the property restricting future land use to industrial /commercial use.

FACILITY BACKGROUND

American Recovery, Inc. (ARI) is located at 3033 West Mission Road in the City of Alhambra in an area zoned for industrial use. From 1978 to June 2000, ARI was a hazardous waste management facility that stored, treated, repackaged and transferred solvents and solvent-contaminated wastes for off-site shipment. Hazardous wastes arrived at the facility in containerized or bulk form and were unloaded either for treatment or storage. ARI treated wastes by either blending or distillation.

On October 25, 1989 an Interim Status Document (ISD), which is a temporary permit, was initially issued by the Department of Health Services (DHS) (later known as the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)). DHS granted a permit to the facility authorizing the facility to manage hazardous waste operations until a final permit decision could be made. Under the temporary permit, the facility was permitted to store liquid and solid wastes up to 22,000 gallons. In June 2000, DTSC denied ARI's Permit Application due to repeated violations of the Public Health Code while handling and storing hazardous waste. After DTSC denied the Permit Application, ARI stopped doing business and the ARI Facility is now vacant.

On April 5, 2002, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) issued a Unilateral Administrative Order and conducted a removal action on the abandoned hazardous waste at the facility. Further soil investigations indicated low levels of solvents across the site, with the highest levels occurring near the solvent distillation unit.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

In June 1991, DTSC completed a RCRA Facility Assessment (RFA) for this facility. The Purpose of the RFA is to identify potential or actual releases of hazardous waste constituents from Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) and to make a preliminary determination about the releases, the need for corrective action, and to recommend interim measures if necessary. The RFA for this Facility includes the following SWMUs: a) Drum Storage Area; b) two 6000-gallon aboveground storage tanks; c) two underground storage tanks; and d) distillation Unit. DTSC proposes that the Corrective Action be terminated.

THE CLOSURE OF THE FACILITY DOES NOT POSE A RISK TO THE PUBLIC

DTSC considers the contamination with a health risk factor of less than one in million as safe for unrestricted use and does not pose a risk to the public. The results of an investigation by DTSC revealed a risk factor in the range between one in a hundred thousand and one in a million. However, based on the results of this investigation and a human health risk evaluation, it is proposed that a land use restriction be put in place to restrict the future land use to commercial / industrial use. A confirmation sampling will be conducted to confirm no impact to groundwater as part of the Closure Plan.

HOW DTSC PLANS TO CLOSE THE FACILITY

In order for the facility to be rendered safe for future use, the draft closure plan proposes decontamination of the above ground tank and solvent distillation unit (still) prior to disposal. Additionally, the concrete surfaces in the drum storage area of the warehouse and the secondary containment areas for the tank and distillation unit will be pressure washed and steam cleaned. Since there would be small quantities of hazardous constituents that will remain at the site, a Land use Covenant (LUC) will be signed by DTSC and the property owner, and recorded with the Office of the County Recorder to ensure that future land use will be restricted to commercial /industrial use. In addition, the closure plan requires the facility to investigate the vertical extent of the contamination under the still area and confirm no impact to the groundwater. If the detectable contamination in the soil gas persists or contamination extends to groundwater, then the closure plan shall be modified if necessary, to address the impact to the groundwater and proposed remedy.

California environmental quality act (CEQA) review

DTSC has performed a review of the proposed Closure Plan and Corrective Action Termination pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Based on this review, DTSC has determined that the proposed Corrective Action Termination and closure plan will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment; therefore, DTSC proposes to issue a CEQA Exemption in connection with this project. If the closure plan is modified to address the impacts to the groundwater then a new CEQA document will be prepared.

YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE COMMENTS

You have the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed Corrective Action Termination and Draft Closure Plan. The 30-day public comment period will begin on June 29, 2005 and end on July 29, 2005. A Public Hearing is not scheduled at this time, but one may be held if requested, in order to clarify one or more issues concerning the Closure Plan.

Your comments must be postmarked no later than July 29, 2005. Send comments to: Mr. Mike Eshaghian, DTSC Southern California Permitting and Corrective Action Branch, 1011 N. Grandview Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information or have questions on the Draft Closure and Termination of Corrective Action, please contact:

DTSC Public Participation Specialist
Jesus Cruz, (818) 551-2875
or email Jcruz@dtsc.ca.gov

DTSC Project Manager
Mike Eshaghian, (818) 551-2926
or email MEshagi@dtsc.ca.gov

DTSC Public Information Specialist
Ms. Jeanne Garcia, (818) 551-2176
or email JGarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

Para Informacion en Español, favor de llamar a Jesus Cruz al -(818) 551-2875

For information in Chinese, please contact Mr. Liang-Chu Chiang at
1011 N. Grandview Ave., Glendale, CA
(818) 551-2964
Email: LCHIANG@dtcs.ca.gov

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

The Draft Closure Plan, the proposed Corrective Action Termination and other documents are available for your review at the following locations:

Alhambra Public Library
410 W. Main St., Alhambra, CA 91801
(626) 570-5008, (626) 570-1104 fax
Monday: 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.,
Tuesday: Noon to 9 p.m.,
Wed/Thurs: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

DTSC File Room: Jone Barrio
1011 N. Grandview Ave., Glendale, CA
(818) 551-2886
Please call to make an appointment.

NOTICE TO HEARING IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS

TDD users can obtain information about the site by using the California State Relay Service (888) 877-5378 to reach Public Participation Specialist, Mr. Jesus Cruz at (818) 551-2875.